

hispanicfederation

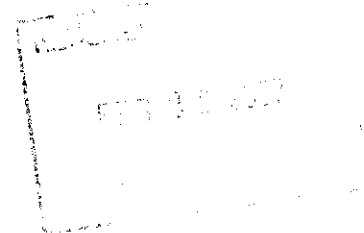
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February 14, 2007

Chairman Kevin Martin  
Commissioner Michael Copps  
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein  
Commissioner Robert McDowell  
Commissioner Deborah Tate  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554



RE: FCC Docket #97-80

Dear Chairman Martin, Commissioners Copps, Adelstein, McDowell and Tate:

On behalf of the Hispanic Federation, let me again reiterate my request to waive the approaching integration ban for cable set-top boxes that will unjustly tax American consumers, and specifically urge the Commission to review the recent Media Bureau decision denying a waiver for low-cost set-top boxes to the Comcast Corporation.

Established in 1990 by a group of Hispanic leaders, the Hispanic Federation is a membership organization of over 90 Latino organizations in Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania. Since its inception, the Hispanic Federation's mission has been to meet the growing needs of the Hispanic community.

As noted in my letter on October 2, 2006, the Hispanic Federation rightfully urges the government to support policies that will help middle-class, and particularly Hispanic American, households increase access to affordable digital technologies that have the potential to level the playing field and promote a ladder of opportunity.


In this case, the approaching integration ban appears to promote no consumer benefit of which I am aware except to further the interests of consumer electronics manufacturers. Yet the corresponding costs appear to be grave – totaling hundreds of millions of dollars per year – and it will impose what can only be described as a “regressive tax” that will harm middle-class consumers most acutely.

Indeed, the Media Bureau's denial of the request for a waiver by Comcast would seem to contradict the Commission's prior statements that the integration ban should not interfere with consumers' option of low-cost integrated boxes. The Commission's promise to mitigate these harms appears to have fallen by the wayside.

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Therefore, we hope that the full Commission would take the necessary step to review the Bureau's decision and bring some sorely needed economic relief for middle-class American households.

Sincerely,

  
Lillian Rodríguez-López  
President  
Hispanic Federation

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, Lillian Rodriguez-López, hereby certify that, on February 14, 2007, copies of the attached Comments of the Hispanic Federation were served via regular mail, on the following:

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<p>Mr. Jeffrey A. Campbell Director, Technology &amp; Comm. Policy Cisco Systems, Inc. 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20004</p>	<p>Ms. Marlene Dortch Secretary Federal Communications Commission 445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20554</p>
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<p>Mr. John Godfrey Vice President, Government Affairs Samsung Information Systems America, Inc. 1200 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W., #550 Washington, D.C. 20036</p>	<p>James L. Casserly Jonathan Friedman Willkie Farr &amp; Gallagher LLP 1875 K Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20006 <i>Attorneys for Comcast Corporation</i></p>
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<p>Ms. Abbe Raven President &amp; CEO A&amp;E Networks 235 E. 45th Street New York, NY 10017</p>	<p>Mr. David Zaslav President NBC Universal Cable 100 Universal City Plaza Universal City, CA 91608</p>

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<p>The Honorable Fred Upton House Energy and Commerce Committee Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515</p>	<p>The Honorable Ted Stevens Senate Commerce Committee Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510</p>
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/s/ Lillian Rodriguez-López  
Lillian Rodriguez-López